

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-13 were pending in the application and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,708,209 to Ebata et al. (Reference I). Claim 14 has been added and thus, claims 1-14 remain in the case. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

The Application

As described in the application, conventionally "central units are provided which coordinate and monitor the connections within a subregion" (page 1, lines 21-22). As a result, when a connection runs through numerous subregions, "it is a complex matter to monitor the bandwidth for each individual connection over the data paths for all connections" (page 1, last line to page 2, line 1). To avoid this situation, a resource manager according to the present invention analyzes resources "between the subregions" as described at e.g., the first paragraph on page 6 of the application. This significantly reduces the management effort required for inter-subregion connections, because a simplified network topology can be used to evaluate and assure the quality of service for the connection.

U.S. Patent 6,708,209 to Ebata et al.

The Ebata et al. patent is directed finding a quality-guaranteed path for an inter-network communication in "a network system which has a plurality of networks each having a policy server" (column 1, lines 62-63), such as the policy server illustrated in Fig. 5 and described at column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 64. The resource policy tables 321a-321e and 322a listed in the last full paragraph in column 5 are described in more detail in the text from column 5, line 65 to column 10, line 15. These tables include intra-organization resource policy table 321a and organization-related policy table 321d. The method taught by Ebata et al. uses all of this information, so that "the policy server of each organization can retrieve all bandwidths that are expected to be available between the IDs of organizations that are passed through and the IP address of a destination organization" (column 12, lines 1-5).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In item 1 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ebata et al. As discussed above, Ebata et al. discloses a system that uses the data-intensive method of assuring quality of service discussed in the Background of the Invention section of the application. On the other hand, claim 1 recites "storing ... associated

information relating to address ranges of the subregions, routes through the subregions ... and the transmission system resources between the subregions" (claim 1, lines 4-9) and then checking for authorization of the connection "in consideration of the requested scope of resources and the transmission system resources between the subregions of the route" (claim 1, lines 13-15). No suggestion has been found in Ebata et al. of how a quality of service determination could be made in this manner. According to Ebata et al., more information is required, unlike the method recited in claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-14 which depend therefrom patentably distinguish over Ebata et al.

New Claim 14

Claim 14 has been added to explicitly recite that the operations of "storing and checking do not include resources within subregions" (claim 14, lines 1-2). As discussed above with respect to claim 1, nothing has been cited or found in Ebata et al. suggesting that authorization for a connection or a quality of service determination can be obtained **without** taking into consideration the intra-organization resource policy table 321a and organization-related policy table 321d. Therefore, there should be no question that claim 14 patentably distinguishes over Ebata et al.

Summary

It is submitted that Ebata et al. does not teach or suggest the features of the present claimed invention. Thus, it is submitted that claims 1-14 are in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 09/847,603

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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